

L.A.R.C.  
P.O. Box 2571  
Thunder Bay ON  
P7B 5G1

# Hi-Q

March, 1993

Meetings: 7:30 P.M.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month  
Room 210, McIntyre Building,  
Confederation College.

## Safety First

By: Bill Unger VE3EFC

In a previous life I used to play with high power broadcasting transmitters. Now I just get to watch others do it while I try and forecast the budgets to run them.

In any event not long after I arrived on site as the technician I was responsible for a 5 kW Canadian General Electric television transmitter. My training consisted of being given the keys to the car and building, a pat on the back and told where I could find the manuals if required.

This particular transmitter was a real dog to tune up and make output power. There was a link coupling scheme between the IPA and the PA sections. To tune it you would move this two turn link up or down and fire up the transmitter. If it was correct, and invariably it wasn't you would shut down the transmitter and move it again. The adjustment was in the back of the thing behind dozens of screws and the on/off switch was on the front. As you can imagine you could easily turn this into a vocation. Possibly in another article I could tell you more about this thing.

Anyway on the front of this transmitter there were about a dozen fuses. They varied in ratings from 0.5 to 10 Amps. With the 10 Amp jobs being made of ceramic. To test them you had to take the fuse out of the holder and ohm it out. Since I was young and keen I decided to replace the fuse holders with the neon indicating units. If the fuse blows the neon lights and that is the one to replace. And besides there is a special section of Murphy's Law regarding this. It states "A fuse in an indicating fuse holder never blows because it is too easy to find and replace". Obviously the corollary to this is that the more difficult to find or replace the fuse is the greater the odds of it failing.

The fuse holders were ordered and arrived on site. At midnight I went in and started to change out the fuse holders. I shut down the transmitter and started to work. Well the first few went lickety split and I was feeling like a real technician. It didn't last long. Seems I forgot to disconnect the 220 Volts AC at the back of one panel. At 3:00 AM I was pulling out the panel and the 220 touched the adjoining rack. WOW! It made the pyrotechnics on Canada Day look pathetic. There was a blinding flash and sparks were all over the room. I covered the distance from the transmitter to a position under my office desk in 3 seconds flat. A distance of some 30 feet. That's approaching the 5 minute mile. Twenty minutes later I had the fortitude and

had stopped shaking sufficiently to peer out. I tripped a breaker on the wall and now the transmitter was off for certain. There was a hole the size of a pencil in the one eighth inch steel panel where the line touched it. I bundled everything up and went home some what humbler. Several nights later I went back and completed the job. Ensuring this time that the transmitter was indeed off.

As in all stories like this one there is a moral. It is please make sure that anytime you go into your equipment, what ever it is, make sure it is UNPLUGGED! I was lucky and the only thing injured was my pride. If you must work on it hot keep one hand in your pocket. Remember even in low voltage units there can be high currents.

**Please Be Careful.**

## Received from Down East

Just a short note to say how much I appreciated the thoughtfulness of the party that was held for JoAnne and I and the gifts which we received. It was just another reminder of how much we are leaving behind as we move from Thunder Bay. The chassis for the QRP transmitter and receiver have been emptied, (my first meal in Toronto) but the spare parts for the Kenwood are still in tact in case they are needed in an emergency. It has been a genuine pleasure being a member of LARC and I hope that once we are in our new home we will be able to re-establish contact with our many Ham friends in Thunder Bay via the air waves.

Be assured that having been bestowed the title of honorary chaplain, I will continue to meditate and bless all antenna projects in absentia.

Regards. Dave VE3DOM

## Tower anyone?

The Moldavian Television and Broadcasting Association has dismantled its jammers and is now selling the towers. Each weighs about 100 tons. For more information, write to Kotovskoye Shosse 64, 277028 Kishinev, Moldavia or call 1-800-TOWERS. Ask for Al. (Better still, send your order along with Jim and Pat!!!)

*From a recent issue of Monitoring Times*  
73 de VE3AVS/SWC (ex-VE3SEC)  
January 25th, 1993

## Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

**LARC****Founding President:**

PJ (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW  
1981-1972

**Executive****President:**

Terry Stewardson VE3TKA

**Vice-President:**

Steve Robb VE3KRH

**Secretary:**

Barry Hunter VE3BGA

**Treasurer:**

Skip Wright VE3BBS

**Directors:**

John Kalala VE3EM

Glen Wallace VE3IOY

Len Catillo VE3ILV

Norm Bell VE3XRC

**Past President:**

Mark Vukovich VE3VUK

**Club Appointments****Emergency Coordinator:**

Skip Wright VE3BBS

**Assistant Emergency Coordinator:**

Norm Bell VE3XRC

**Licence Sponsor:**

John Visser VE3HTM

**Public Relations:**

Bob Bishop VE3JAB

**Ham Class Instructor:**

Ed Baumann VE3BNW

**Code Instructor:**

Norm Bell VE3XRC

**Hi-Q Editor:**

Jim O'Brien VE3UA

**Technical — Hardware:**

Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD

Glen Anderson VE3JAU

Linda Soles VE3NHX

Glen Wallace VE3IOY

Bill Unger VE3EFC

**Technical — Software:**

Len Catillo VE3ILV

Steve Robb VE3KRH

Terry Stewardson VE3TKA

**EMC Committee**

Bob Bishop VE3JAB

Mike Nawrocki VE3ZG

Bill Unger VE3EFC

Laurie Bridgett VE3BCD

Linda Soles VE3NHX

## Serendipity

### Reindeer Radio

This past Christmas saw a proliferation of lights, mechanical men, and other ornaments playing endless carols. But, when carols began sounding over police radios in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, the FCC was summoned to help locate the source of devastating interference.

No one was more surprised than Mrs. Blanche Cosgrove, who answered her door to men wearing headphones and carrying electronic gear, asking to inspect her Christmas decorations!

The source was found to be three small plastic reindeer whose noses light up as they play "Jingle Bells". Although she had been playing them for three days, the problem did not begin until the third day when it increased by the hour. The ornament apparently emitted a signal on the police frequency which was picked up by a police radio repeater antenna two blocks away.

The FCC, which took the set for inspection, admitted it was a very strange case. The novelty item was manufactured in China, and was purchased in 1991. No other similar sets were found in the area stores this year.

*Monitoring Times February 1993  
via VE3AVS/SWC February 9, 1993*

### EMC/I?

An article in the CORTLAND FORUM, a medical journal, tells about a second-year pathology resident, Maria L. Evans, MD, KT5Y, of Columbia, Missouri, ran into one of her older ham friends in the lobby of the hospital. He was there for treatment of two recent "syncopal episodes." Dr. Evans, a radio ham for 16 years, was able to link the recent purchase and operation of a one kilowatt amplifier to the patient's attacks. According to the W5YI Report, the amplifier was interfering with the man's cardiac pacemaker. "The patient decided that his old 100 watt rig was plenty, sold his linear, and hasn't had a syncopal episode since."

*From a recent issue of Monitoring Times  
73 de VE3AVS/SWC (ex-VE3SEC) January 25th, 1993*

### LARC/Hi-Q Information

Hi-Q is published ten months of the year by the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club (LARC) Inc., an Ontario registered, non-profit corporation. Contributions related to amateur radio and, in particular, articles of interest to Northwestern Ontario amateurs are encouraged any time. Send your articles direct to the editor, Jim O'Brien, VE3UA at 737 South Norah Street, Thunder Bay ON P7E 1P6. Dated announcements etc. should be received by the editor no later than ten days prior to the first day of the month in which the notice is to appear. Submissions for publication may be in any format however; a 3 1/2 inch floppy disk and WordPerfect® are preferred (the disk will be returned). Material in Hi-Q may be copied for non-profit use by the amateur radio community provided credit is given to the author and source(s).

Hi-Q is distributed to all LARC members, except that only one copy is issued to each address.

LARC membership fees, determined annually, are set for 1993 as follows: Regular — \$30.00, Associate — \$20.00, Associate (attending Ham class) — \$12.00, Student (attending school full time) — \$15.00; and Family — \$30.00 plus \$10.00 for each additional member of the family at the same address.

The club call is VE3FW in honour of our founding president Pat O'Shea. The LARC owns and operates two VHF repeaters, VE3TBR on 146.82 MHz - located atop St. Joseph's Heritage and VE3YQT on 147.06 MHz - located on Mount Baldy. The club mail address is: Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 2571, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5G1.

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**Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**


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**Minutes of a Meeting  
of the  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
General Meeting  
Held at  
Confederation College Room 210  
on January 14, 1993**

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The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs, count of members was not recorded.

#### **Review of Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes were published in December's HI-Q. One addition was noted. The addition of EMO following CKPR in Paragraph B of old Business. The paragraph now reads "A discussion followed regarding honouring club commitments to CKPR/EMO." Motion to accept minutes as printed in HI-Q made by VE3XMT seconded by VE3BBS. The motion was passed by members in attendance.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Reported expenses from Dec 1/92 to Jan 12/93 were \$319.50 and income for the same period was \$1037.16. Bank balances in chequing account was \$2676.70 savings \$1949.43 for a total on hand balance of \$4625.50. Motion to accept the treasurers report made by Vic VE3ECV and seconded. The motion was passed by members.

#### **Presidents Report**

Annual Dinner - Pagoda Restaurant on Dawson Road 6:30 and dinner starting at 7:00 at \$18.00 per person. Cash Bar - No speaker as yet.

#### **Other Reports**

A) VE3JAB reported that the Terms of Reference were available for the Executive to review on the RFI/TVI committee. Bob mentioned that the term "INTERFERENCE" be eliminated and subsequently the name of the committee will be now known as "LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ELECTROMAGNETIC COMPATIBILITY/IMMUNITY COMMITTEE"

B) VE3HFS reported that plans were in place for a letter to be forwarded to the club membership requesting donations of dollars or equipment for IRKUTSK. VE3UA & HFS were preparing to travel to IRKUTSK in June of 93 with the equipment. Monies from Thunder Bay Voyageur Award, Donations and possible government support would be used to purchase equipment. At this time VE3JAB mentioned that Mike Jones be requested to speak at the Annual Dinner. The idea was accepted by all members present.

#### **Old Business**

At the December meeting a motion made by VE3NPS for the executive to review old minutes and see what outstanding motions were still unresolved in regards to upgrading VE3YQT.

In reviewing the minutes while motions of individual items were not found the Repeater Proposal dated January 1990 drafted by SKIP  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

VE3BBS was found. This basically listed all the items for upgrading YQT. It was explained that the items included in this were a "WISH LIST" and totalled over \$28000.00. Monies raised were \$16000.00 of which all had been spent ie. heliax \$4000, controllers \$5000, repeater MJR2000 \$6000. This list also included a new antenna 210 C4, icom 901, link antennas duplexers and digital voice recorder. Another \$12000.00.

A motion was put before the membership reading "THAT THE REPEATER PLAN AS OUTLINED WAS TO BE DELETED AND ALL OUTSTANDING MOTIONS WITH REGARDS TO UPGRADING YQT WERE TO BE CONSIDERED COMPLETE."

Discussion of the motion followed, and it soon became clear that the original intent, that is "to provide a reliable VHF repeater at the CKPR site" was, after all, the prime commitment to the LARC members, CHFD/CKPR TV and the EMO. It was also clear that the commitment had been accomplished. The motion made by VE3HFS seconded by VE3JAB was unanimously carried.

#### **New Business**

##### **I - 500**

VE3BBS gave an outline on the race to be held Wednesday Jan 27/93 from Grand Marais to Thunder Bay. Volunteers were required. Some concerns were expressed over last years race and were mentioned. Terry (TKA) and Barry (BGA) had a meeting scheduled for the following Tuesday with Race co-ordinators and would voice these concerns.

VE3AVS is managing a course at Sir Winston Churchill High School called Communications Technology and some 40-45 students aged 15-16 years were taking part. As a small part of the course, each student had to initiate a two way QSO on TBR and YQT. Each student will also make a phone patch. He asked for patience and understanding of the members and assistance with QSO'S. Period of operation would be ongoing from Feb - June and all communications would be from VE3SWC

##### **50/50 Draw**

The draw for \$96.00 was made and VE3XMR (not in attendance) was drawn. The draw therefore at the Annual Dinner will be in excess of \$100.00.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2030 was asked for and received duly seconded from the membership.

Following the meeting Ed VE3LML provided a full accounting and results at the charges of "MISCHIEF" laid by Thunder Bay Police. (Full account was published in January Hi-Q.)



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**Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club**


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**Minutes of the  
Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
Annual Dinner Meeting  
Held at the  
Pagoda Garden Dinning Lounge  
Dawson Road, Thunder Bay, Ontario  
February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1993.**

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The meeting was called to order at 19:55 with 60 members and guests in attendance.

The President advised that the resignation of the Secretary VE3XET, Eric had been received due to work commitments and that the executive, in accordance with the constitution, had VE3BGA, Barry to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

**Review of Previous Minutes:**

The members reviewed previous minutes distributed at the meeting, no additions or deletions were noted.

VE3JAJ, Les moved the minutes be accepted as distributed. VE3SNW, Ed seconded the motion. Carried.

**Treasurer's Report — VE3BBS**

The year end Balance Sheet for the period January 1, 1992 to December 31, 1992 showed as follows:

Opening Balance Jan 1/92 (cash on hand)	\$1,848.77
Expenses	7,358.62
Income	10,655.37
Cash on Hand (Dec 31/92)	3,296.75
Total Cash on Hand Dec. 31/92	\$5,145.52

VE3NPS Nestor and VE3CAP Don questioned the purchase of a TH-6 for \$350.00 and its subsequent sale for \$286.05. The President advised that the antenna was sold to another Non-Profit Organization, the 55 Plus Centre at a loss of \$63.05 which was acceptable to the Club.

The year end Balance sheet was audited and reviewed by Denise Graham, C.A. and reflects the overall position of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club, Inc. as at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1992.

VE3HFS, Pat moved the Treasurer's Report be accepted as presented. VE3SNW, Ed seconded the motion. Carried.

Intermission was at 20:20 followed by an excellent slide presentation and commentary on Superior — Baikal Connect, by Mike Jones of the Ontario Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Jones was thanked by all through VE3JAB, Bob Bishop. The meeting concluded by drawing for the many donated prizes. Our thanks go to the following for the gifts: Pagoda Restaurant, VE3AJ, /BBS, /EEI, /FW, /LML, /OPF, OTV and /WAI. Ed, VE3SNW won the \$113.00 50/50 draw and promptly donated his winnings to the Irkutsk fund. Thanks Ed.

**Sibley — Volunteer Communicators**

Sibley Ski Tour for 1993 has been confirmed for 06 March 93. Anyone interested in working this year's Sibley Ski Tour is asked to contact Skip VE3BBS at 767 2307, on 2M YQT or leave a message on Terry's BBS. Requirements for this event are 2M but with a twist. A good 2M external antenna with some extra battery paks are a must. Transportation to and from the check points and the access points along Highway 587 will be provided for the operators. Breakfast call is at the Pass Lake truck stop at 0530. Secure from the race should be by 1700 from the last Check Point. Race Officials expect 700 to 800 skiers for this event.

**WARNING to all Hams**

A reward of 500 Microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hopalong Capacity. The unrectified criminal escaped from a Westin Primary cell where he had been Clamped In Ions awaiting the Gauss chamber.

He is charged with the Induction of an 18 turn coil named MilliHenry, who was found Choked and robbed of valuable Joules. He is armed with a Carbon Rod and is a Potential killer. Hopalong Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over the Wheatstone Bridge and refusing to let the Band Pass. If encountered he may offer Series Resistance.

The Electromotive Force spent the night searching for him in the Magnetic Field, where he has gone to earth. They had no success and believe Capacity returned Ohm via a Short Circuit. He was last seen riding a Kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current, who was playing Ohm on the Range with his Harmonic.

*Reprinted from the Horseshoe Amateur Radio Club newsletter, contributed by Paul Mackanos, K2DB and provided here by Gerry, VE3KRZ.*

## Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club

### Local Experimenter Succeeds

The days of experimentation in ham radio are not entirely dead. During the quiet, late evening hours of Wednesday, February 17, 1993, without fanfare or any thoughts of instant world-wide fame, a local ham was successful in achieving a major breakthrough. As is often the case with many of the world's great innovators, he asked not to be identified until all collected data has been analyzed and the results of his fifteen minute test are published. (Hi-Q is presently negotiating for the publishing rights.)

This observer has discovered though, that with some unspecified modifications, a popular brand VIII<sup>F</sup> mobile transceiver was fortuitously converted into a broad-spectrum transmitter. The remarkable radio, only recently acquired by the experimenter, is known to have required reparatory surgery in the past at the hands of an undisclosed practitioner. A local Doctor and Laureate, unaware of the modifications or the experiment, would not comment on the importance of the discovery until completion of a full assesment of the changes made to the transceiver.

Many other witnesses however, expressed surprise on learning that a single radio could be made to operate simultaneously over so many distinct frequencies. Another observer was heard to comment that the whole VE3 calling area was experiencing ICY cold conditions at the time, and they may have been contributing factors associated with this significant achievement. We hope to GLEaN more details for a future article.

### Somalia relief frequencies

During the UN relief exercises to Somalia, the following frequencies (part of the Global HF System) may be used extensively by the USAF and others:

4725 kHz	6738 kHz	8967 kHz	8993 kHz
11176 kHz	13201 kHz	15015 kHz	17975 kHz

Mogadishu Airport (along with other Middle East facilities) are quite active on 5658 and 11300 kHz

*From a Recent Issue of Monitoring Times  
73 de VE3AVS/SWC (ex-VE3SEC) January 25th, 1993*

### Calling all Sourdoughs

Attention former members of the Northwest Territories and Yukon Radio System. Ottawa writer Michael Martin would like to hear from former members about their experiences for inclusion in an expanded popularized history of the system. Contact him at: P.O. Box 56103, OTTAWA ON K1R 7Z1. Telephone collect (613) 567-8671

*CARF News Service, Bulletin No. 02-93, 1 Feb., 1993*

### CRRL and CARF seek meeting with Minister

CARF and CRRL officials have asked for a special meeting with the Minister of Communications, Perrin Beatty. The two national organizations feel amateurs need to be better supported in many key areas of DOC administration.

Some municipalities are overriding DOC's rightful authority over most antenna installation matters. DOC seems to want to distance itself from the resulting disputes between amateurs and municipalities rather than defend federal jurisdiction under the Radiocommunication Act.

The lack of EMC standards for VCR's, TV's, stereos, radios, telephones, alert/security systems and other home electronic equipment is causing costly problems for the public and amateurs.

So-called amateur "self policing" is hampered by lack of information on valid operator certificates and station licenses and an inability to initiate effective action against those who violate the law.

Complex administrative problems are mounting and there is a compelling need for an ongoing "Advisory or Steering Committee" type arrangement with DOC to deal with key issues on a continuing basis. We can no longer afford to wait months and years to effectively address and resolve these and other threatening operational problems.

The formation of the new single national organization, Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC), offers a special opportunity to establish a more effective relationship with DOC.

The Minister has shown a personal interest in Canada's amateur radio operators. CRRL and CARF are hopeful that this interest may prompt meaningful improvements in the process of serving Canada's 34,543 amateur radio operators.

*J. Farrell Hopwood, VE7RD President, CARF  
CARF News Service, Bulletin No. 02-93, 1 Feb., 1993*

### Old equipment manuals

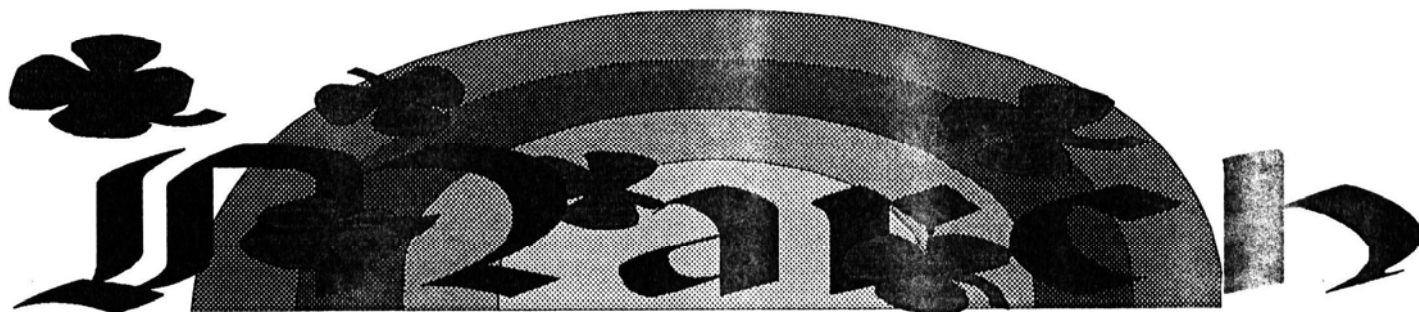
Did you know that there is a source (collector of service manuals for old equipment)? If you write to Hi-Manuals, P.O. Box 802, Council Bluffs, Iowa, USA 51502-0802 and advise them of the Manufacturer and model of any radio that you have, they will advise you of the cost of the manual. This is a boon to all of us who would like to see the older tube-type communications receivers live a little longer!

*from The Hamilton Amateur  
via CARF News Service, Bulletin No. 02-93, 1 Feb., 1993*



Wonder how many hams there are in Japan? At last count, there were 2,280,705. Talk about QRM!

*From a recent issue of Monitoring Times  
73 de VE3AVS/SWC (ex-VE3SEC) January 25th, 1993*

## Journal of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club



1993

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	2 7:00 PM CW Class	3 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	4 7:00 PM Ham Class	5	6  Sibley Ski Tour
7	8 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	9 7:00 PM CW Class	10 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	11 7:30 PM LARC Meeting	12	13
14	15 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	16 7:00 PM CW Class	17  7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00 PM Ham Class	19	20
21	22 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	23 7:00 PM CW Class	24 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	25 7:00 PM Ham Class	26	27 CQ WPX Phone w/w Contest
28 CQ WPX Phone w/w Contest	29 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT CQ WPX (CW)	30 7:00 PM CW Class CQ WPX (CW) w/w Contest	31 7:00 PM 2M Mini Net VE3YQT	Sibley Ski Tour — 6 March Assemble for briefing and breakfast, 0530 hrs. at the Pass Lake truck stop.		27—30 March, 36 <sup>th</sup> CQ WPX Contest, Rules on Pg. 44 Feb '93 CQ Mag.

## Now 3 City Volunteer Examiners

DOC has granted authority for Bob, VE3IDJ to continue as a volunteer examiner following his move to Thunder Bay from Ignace. At his new QTH, Bob has a room available away from distractions for testing purposes. When you are ready to take the test you may contact Bob at 983-3000.

Other area volunteer examiners are: Ed, VE3SNW, call 622-1216; and Dave, VE3AVS call 344-8949.

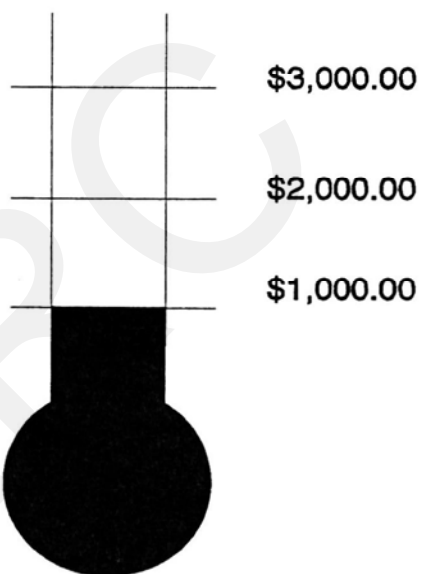
### Irkutsk Fund

If you have been putting off making your donation to the Irkutsk Fund, please don't wait any longer.

Equipment must be purchased, tested and repaired if necessary. We cannot wait until the last moment.

Pat and Jim are covering their own expenses, so your donation will go directly into equipment. If you have not yet contributed, please make your cheque payable to LARC and send it to: LARC, P.O. Box 2571, Thunder Bay ON P7B 5G1

If you have already sent it in, Thank you. You have helped us reach the \$1,000.00 mark on the scale at right.



Received as of 23 February, 1993.